

JLC Position Paper
SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

1. **ISSUE:** To protect the custodial rights of mobilized service members.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Recent news reports have highlighted the plight of Guardsmen and Reservists who lost permanent custody of their children after being called into active federal service
 - In these cases, the service member's ex-spouse used the occasion of the service member's mobilization to seek permanent modification of the child custody arrangement
 - Active duty service members are also dealing with this issue, especially when deployed overseas
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Guardsmen and Reservists called into the service of their country should have the assurance that their military service will not cause them to lose permanent custody of their children
 - Similar protection should be extended to members of the Active Duty military
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation to protect the custodial rights of mobilized service members